

REMARKS

The claims remaining in the present application are Claims 2-8, 10-13, 15-18, and 26-40. Claims 2-4, 8, 10, 26 and 31 have been amended. Claims 38-40 have been added. Claim 9 has been cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Claim Objections

Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a Claim having a higher number. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to 37 C.F.R. 1.126, which states that the original numbering of the claims must be preserved throughout the prosecution. Applicants respectfully submit that were Claim 2 to be cancelled and a new claim added having identical limitations, this would in effect be improperly re-numbering the claims. Applicants note that the Examiner may re-number claims when the application is ready for allowance (see e.g., 37 C.F.R. 1.126). Applicants respectfully request removal of the objection to Claim 2.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-13, 15-18, and 26-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoover et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,560,005 (hereinafter Hoover) in view of Challenger U.S. Patent No. 6,256,712 (hereinafter Challenger). Claim 9 has been cancelled, without prejudice. As such, the rejection to Claim 9 is moot. The rejection to Claims 2-8, 10-13, 15-18, and 26-37 is respectfully traversed, for the reasons below.

Amended Claim 3 recites, in part:

g) said central repository moving a portion of said information from said first of said plurality of databases to said second of said plurality of databases, wherein said moving of information is performed transparently to the application program.

Claim 3 recites that the central repository moves a portion of the information that the calling application requested from one database to another. Moreover, the calling application is not aware of the movement. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification at least at page 6, lines 17-19.

The combination of Hoover and Challenger fails to teach or suggest this claimed limitation because Hoover's teaching will not allow this transparent updating of information by the ORB. Rather, Hoover teaches that the updating is always under the control of the applications running on the client nodes. This is done for security and control reasons. (see, e.g., Hoover, col. 34, line 35 - col. 38, line 18.) Thus, the combination of Hoover and Challenger would not result in the embodiment claimed in Claim 3. In other words, Hoover teaches away from a central repository moving a portion of said information between client nodes that are done transparently to the applications on the client nodes.

Moreover, while Hoover's centralized ORB stores information that describes that location and status of information, the actual physical updating and adding of objects is done by a local computer. Messages may be sent between the ORB and the client databases to indicate that an update or add was performed, but the client has to deal with the specifics of the update/add, not the ORB. That is, the ORB in Hoover merely stores information that describes that location and status of the information.

In Hoover, if a local computer wants to update information, it is done by the local computer in a very complex manner involving a rigorous check of the data already at the local site with data that may have been obtained from a remote computer. In contrast, the embodiment recited in Claim 3 is much simpler because the application

program does not need to do all the complex checking, as the claimed central data repository determines which database should be updated and which fields should be updated.

For the foregoing reasons, neither Hoover nor Challenger, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 3. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claim 3.

Independent Claims 10, 26, and 31 contain similar limitations to the limitation discussed in the response to Claim 3. Therefore, the reasoning discussed in the response to Claim 3, is applicable to these claims. As such, allowance of Independent Claims 10, 26, and 31 is earnestly requested.

Claims 2, 4-8, 11-13, 15-18, 27-30, and 32-37 depend from Claims 3, 10, 26, and 31, which are believed to be allowable for the foregoing rationale. As such, Claims 2, 4-8, 11-13, 15-18, 27-30, and 32-37 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 6 and 8 are believed to be allowable for the following additional reasons.

CLAIM 6

Claim 6 recites in part:

said update is based upon monitoring activity of a user of said application program, said activity being related to said information.

Claim 6 recites that one of the fields is updated by writing to a database, based upon monitoring the activity of a user of the application. It is respectfully asserted that neither Hoover nor Challenger, alone or in combination, teach or suggest this claimed limitation. As such, allowance of Claim 6 is respectfully submitted.

The rejection cites Hoover at col. 53, lines 23-27 with respect to the limitations of Claim 6. Applicants do not understand this passage of Hoover to teach or suggest monitoring user activity. Rather, the passage in Hoover concerns issuing a 'get' message to retrieve demographic data about a patient. For example, Figure 28 illustrates that information about patient John Doe is searched for, retrieved, and displayed. However, John Doe is not a user of the application program. Therefore, getting information about John Doe does not teach or suggest the limitation of, "monitoring activity of a user of said application program."

Challenger fails to rectify this deficiency in Hoover. Therefore, the combination of Hoover and Challenger fail to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 6. As such, allowance of Claim 6 is respectfully submitted.

CLAIM 8

Amended Claim 8 recites, in part:

said central repository providing a parameter to said application program that is used to track active user records;
said central repository receiving said parameter from said application program in order to track a user record associated with said call; and
said central repository deleting said user record if said user record is inactive, based on the received parameter.

Claim 8 recites that the central repository provides a parameter to an application that used to track active user records. The central repository receives the parameter back to track a user record. The central repository deletes the user record if its becomes inactive, based on the parameter.

It is respectfully asserted that the combination of Hoover and Challenger fails to teach or suggest this limitation of Claim 8. Hoover may teach that the application program passes an argument in a call; however, Applicants do not understand Hoover

to teach or suggest "receiving the parameter from the application program in order to track a user record associated with the call," as claimed. Nor does Hoover teach or suggest that the parameter used to track active user records is provided to the application program, as claimed. As such, allowance of Claim 8 is respectfully submitted.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 8, the rejection cites Hoover at col. 29, lines 1-4. Hoover, in this passage is discussing a general form of a message that is depicted at col. 28, line 63. That message comprises "security" parameters and instance attributes. Column 29, lines 1-11 of Hoover explains that the security parameters identify which users have access to particular information, and the instance attributes pertain to the instance of the object that is to be created and may contain search arguments. Thus, contrary to the assertion in the rejection, Hoover does not teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 8. For example, the security parameter is not used to track active records, as claimed. Rather, the security parameter describes who may access information. Moreover, the instance attribute is not used to track active records, as claimed.

Challenger fails to rectify this deficiency in Hoover, in that Challenger fails to each or suggest, "receiving the parameter from the application program in order to track a user record associated with the call," as claimed. Therefore, the combination of Hoover and Challenger fail to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 8. As such, allowance of Claim 8 is respectfully submitted.

New Claims

Claim 38 has been added. Support for new Claim 38 may be found in the specification at least at page 28, lines 6-15. Claim 38 depends from Claim 10, which is

believed to be allowable for reasons herein. As such, Claim 38 is believed to be allowable.

Applicants believe Claim 38 to be allowable for the following additional reason. With respect to Hoover, Hoover does not teach or suggest the limitations in Claim 38 of a single program having two APIs, one that is used via an objection request broker (ORB) and a second API that allows creation of the records not through the ORB. Applicants note that Hoover teaches an ORB that has an API supporting "SEARCH, ADD, GET, UPDATE." However, the actual creation of records is done at the local client nodes, without using a second API to the ORB for creating the new record. Moreover, Applicants have claimed that the first API is used to update a record. Hoover's UPDATE message is not used to update the record, but rather for the client nodes to report that a record was updated.

Challenger may disclose numerous API's; However, Applicants do not understand Challenger to teach or suggest one API useable via an ORB and another not usable via the ORB, in the manner claimed in Claim 38.

For the forgoing reasons, Claim 38 is believed to be allowable over the prior art. Applicants earnestly request allowance of Claim 38.

Claims 39-40 have been added. Support for new Claims 39-40 may be found in the specification at least from page 28, lines 16 - page 27, line 21. Claims 39-40 depend from Claim 3, which is believed to be allowable for reasons herein. As such, Claims 39-40 are believed to be allowable.

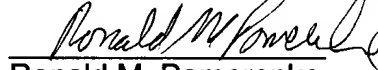
CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejected Claims is requested. Based on the arguments and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-8, 10-13, 15-18, and 26-40 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, allowance of Claims 2-8, 10-13, 15-18, and 26-40 is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant amendment and response, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,
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